



## TEEN PREGNANCY REPORT:

### 2003 Data for Bexar County

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Teen pregnancy continues to be a complex issue for Bexar County. Childbearing among teens—especially those of school age (under age 18)—entails health risks for the mothers and babies, social risks for the fathers, and economic costs to the community.*

*Bexar County's rates of school-age (age 15-17) pregnancy and childbearing are extraordinarily high, but they continue to decrease. In 2003, the rate of births to females age 15 to 17 was 40.4 per thousand--80% higher than the national rate of 22.4 per thousand. Rates of school-age childbearing have fallen 31% since their peak in 1994, from 58.9 per thousand to 40.4 per thousand. During this same period, school-age pregnancy rates fell 34 %, from 76.4 per thousand to 50.4 per thousand.*

*Rates of school-age pregnancy and childbearing are much higher for Hispanic teens than for non-Hispanic whites. Blacks also have higher rates than do non-Hispanic whites. Childbearing rates among racial-ethnic groups in Bexar County are similar to national trends; however, Bexar Hispanics consistently have higher school-age birth rates than Hispanics nationally. Although there has been some fluctuation, school-age birth rates have generally fallen since 1994 among the major racial-ethnic groups in Bexar County: Hispanics, blacks and non-Hispanic whites.*

*For the youngest teens, those under age 15, Bexar County's rate of childbearing in 2003 was 1.3 per thousand—117% higher than the national rate of 0.6 per thousand. Bexar County Rates of pregnancy and childbearing among females age 10 to 14 have fallen dramatically since 1994. Pregnancy rates in this age group have fallen by 42%, and birth rates by 50%, since 1994.*

*School-age births are not evenly distributed across the county. School-age birth rates in 2003 were highest in inner-city zip codes. Four zip codes (78226, 78202, 78205, and 78215) had school-age birth rates calculated to be over 4 times the national rate of 22.4 per thousand (i.e., over 89.6 per thousand). High rates continue to be observed in west, southwest and eastside zip codes. Zip codes with rates calculated to be 3 to 4 times the national rate (i.e., 67.3 to 89.6 per thousand) include 78203, 78204, 78207, 78208, 78210, 78211, 78214, 78225, and 78237.*

*Rates of birth to school age mothers by census tract, calculated for 2001 through 2003, vary widely, as well. Higher rates are found in many census tracts with low socio-economic levels. Many Bexar County census tracts have rates three or four times the national rate—or even higher.*

*Births to mothers under age 15 are fewer than those to older teenage mothers, but represent even higher risk to mother and baby. The zip code with the highest number of births to mothers under age 15 in 2000-2003 was 78207. Zip codes 78210 and 78227 also had very high numbers of births to mothers under age 15 during the last 4 years of reporting.*

*Of the school districts, San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) has, by far, the highest number of births to females under age 18: 478 births. The school district with the highest rate of births to school-age females is Edgewood ISD, with 83.1 births per thousand females age 15 to 17. South San Antonio ISD evidenced the next highest rate at 72.2 per thousand, followed by Harlandale ISD (70.9 per thousand) and San Antonio ISD (63.4 per thousand).*

*Many of the fathers of "teen births" in Bexar County are themselves not teenagers, but much information is missing on the fathers. About 13% of births to Bexar County school-age mothers in 2003 were second or higher-order births, representing a decrease of 2% from 2002. Thirteen percent (13%) of school-age mothers were married at the time of the birth. The majority (95%) of abortions performed in Bexar County are not among minors, but among older women (18-40+). Among the various racial/ethnic groups, non-Hispanic whites had the highest percentage (36.3%) of school-age pregnancies reportedly*

*terminated by abortion in Bexar County in 2003. The increases in reports of induced termination of pregnancy in 1998 and 1999 were likely due to a reporting change.*

*Because teen pregnancy is related to sexual activity, information on reportable sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is included in this report. In 2003, over 3,300 cases of reportable STDs—most commonly Chlamydia (2,637 cases)—were reported among youth age 10 to 19 in Bexar County.*

*Continued progress in lowering teen pregnancy rates will be greatest with use of multiple strategies, including encouraging abstinence, supporting effective parent communication, providing contraceptive information and access, and improving the overall outlook for adolescents.*

## BACKGROUND

Teen pregnancy is a complex and controversial issue—one with tremendous costs for our community. The health and social risks for adolescent mothers and their children are high, including high rates of school failure, welfare dependence, child abuse, low birth weight, and infant mortality. Educational and economic outlook for the babies' fathers is also impacted<sup>1</sup>.

This report focuses primarily on pregnancies and births to mothers of school age (i.e., those under age 18) because of the great health, economic, and educational impact of childbearing in this age group. It is estimated that, compared with childbearing at age 20 or 21, the tax costs of a birth to a mother under age 18 for one year alone are over \$2800<sup>1</sup>.

In this report, rates are calculated for age groups reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Center for Health Statistics<sup>2-4</sup>. The 15 to 17 year-old age group represents the bulk of school-aged childbearing. Rates for the youngest teens (aged 10 to 14) are much lower, but they are nevertheless important because of their associated health and social problems.

## METHODS

*Birth rates* are calculated using data on births from birth certificates to Bexar County residents as the numerator (times 1000) and census data (or population estimates from Claritas, Inc. of San Diego, California in non-census years) for the denominator. *Pregnancy rates* include births and abortions and fetal deaths in the numerator, and census data (or Claritas population estimates in non-census years) for the denominator. Since fetal deaths are relatively rare, abortion rates account for most of the difference between pregnancy rates and birth rates.

Because birth data are derived from birth certificates, they are generally timely, detailed, and complete. Abortion data contains less information, and reporting may be less complete than for births. Location (address) of women undergoing abortion is not reported; therefore, pregnancy rates cannot be calculated for areas smaller than the county as a whole. Thus, while *birth rates* can be calculated by census tract, zip code, and school district, *pregnancy rates* cannot be calculated for these areas.

Data on births, abortions, fetal deaths, and population estimates for the county as a whole are based on information provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Because of delays in finalizing data at the state level, the 2003 county population estimates by age, sex, and race/ethnicity were considered preliminary at the time this report was published.

*Zip code rates* of school-age (age 15-17) births are calculated using 2003 birth certificate data for the numerator (times 1000), and estimates of 2003 female population age 15-17 by zip code. Zip code population estimates are provided by Claritas, Inc. of San Diego, CA. The zip code map is then color-coded to reflect the relationship of the zip code's rate to the 2003 U.S. overall rate of births to females age 15 to 17, 22.4 per thousand.

Calculations of *birth rates by census tract* utilize 3 years of birth data to minimize the instability of rates expected for small areas. For this report, census tract rates were calculated using the average (mean) number of births to 15 to 17 year old mothers for years 2001, 2002, and 2003. Claritas estimates for population of females age 15 to 17 by census tract in 2002 (the central year for 2001-2003) were used as denominators for these calculations. Thus, for each census tract, the following calculation was made:

$$\frac{[(2001 \text{ Births to Females 15-17}) + (2002 \text{ Births to Females 15-17}) + (2003 \text{ Births to Females 15-17})] + 3 \times 1000}{(2002 \text{ Claritas Estimated Population of Females 15-17})}$$

The resulting census tract rate for 2001-2003 was then compared to the 2002 U.S. national rate of 23.2 births per 1000 females age 15 to 17. Census tracts are then color coded on a map according to how many multiples of the U.S. rate the census tract rate represents.

Census tract population estimates are also from Claritas, Inc. of San Diego, CA. Claritas uses census data and other information to project population characteristics in non-census years. Claritas data cannot be considered as accurate as census data, but they allow estimates of zip code and census tract birth rates to be made in non-census years.

*School district* births are compiled from birth certificate data. Births to mothers of the appropriate age group are geo-coded to the mother's address. Births are then aggregated to school district catchment areas. School district birth rates utilize this birth certificate data in the numerator and thus reflect all births in the relevant age group, including those to teens who do not attend school, or who attend private schools. Claritas estimates of female population aged 15 to 17 by school district became available for 2003, and these are used as the denominator for school district rate calculations.

Birth certificate data are used to extract information on the age of fathers, subsequent births, and marital status of school age mothers.

Data on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are available from reports to the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District for bacterial STDs (Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia), and for HIV and AIDS.

## FINDINGS

### Bexar County School-age Pregnancy and Birth Rates: Trends over Time.

Birth rates and pregnancy rates in the 15 to 17 year-old age group have fallen substantially since 1994, the year that birth rates among Hispanic teens peaked for the U.S. as a whole (Figure 1). In 2003, the Bexar County birth rate for 15 to 17 year-old females was 40.4 per thousand, a *decrease of 31%* from the 58.9 per thousand in 1994. Bexar County's pregnancy rate for females age 15 to 17 in 2003 was 50.4 per thousand, a *decrease of 34 %* from the 76.4 per thousand in 1994.

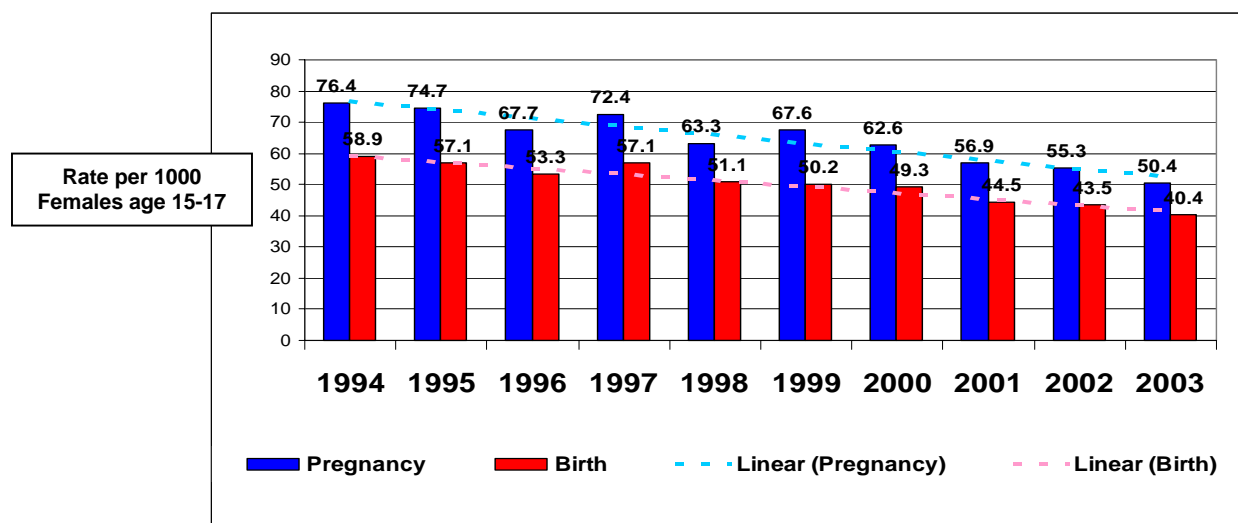
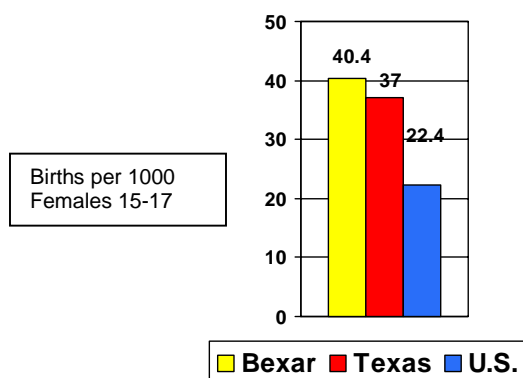


FIGURE 1. Pregnancy and Birth Rates (per 1000 females age 15 to 17), Bexar County 1994-2003

### Comparison of Bexar County School-Age Birth Rates to Texas and to the U.S.

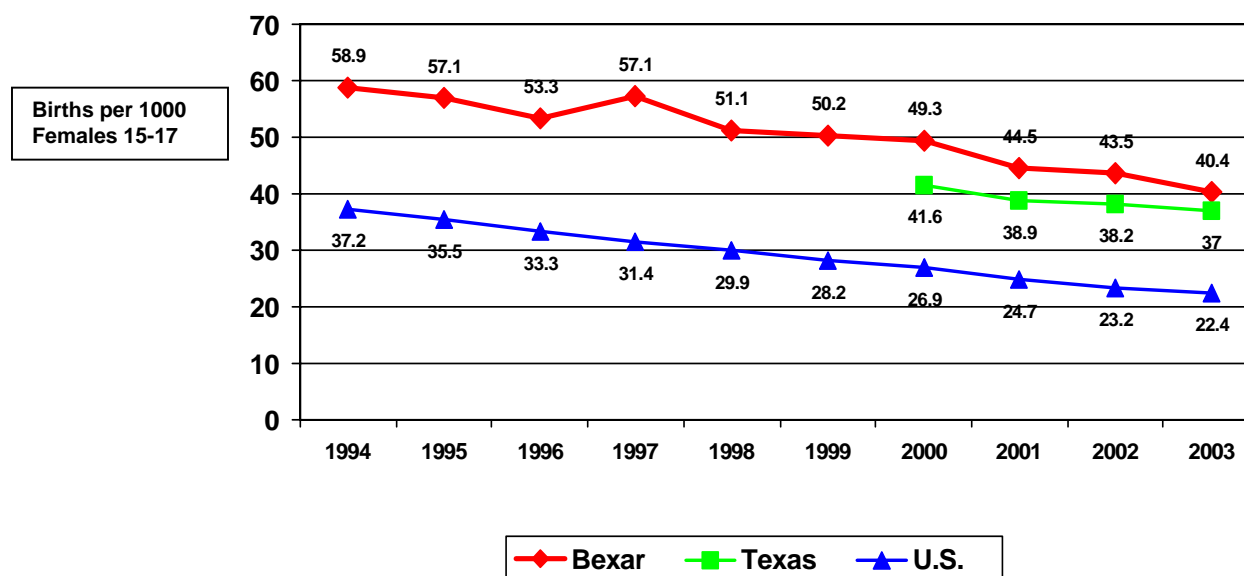
The decreases in school-age pregnancy and birth rates are encouraging and represent progress. Still, the rates of school-age pregnancy in Bexar County and San Antonio are extraordinarily high, and are falling more slowly than those of the U.S. as a whole. Comparisons of Bexar County birth rates to those of the U.S. as a whole, and to Texas, are presented in Figure 2.



**FIGURE 2. Comparison of Bexar, Texas and U.S. School-Age Births Rates, 2003**

Bexar County school-age birth rates in 2003 were 40.4 per thousand--80% higher than the national rate of 22.4 per thousand. Bexar's rate of school-age births was 9% higher than that of Texas as a whole. The Texas' rate of 37 per thousand was 65% higher than the national rate. While all of the 2003 state-specific school-age birth rates are not yet available, it is of note that Texas' rate of births to school-age females in 2002 was the *highest of any state*, surpassing that of Mississippi for the first time<sup>2</sup>.

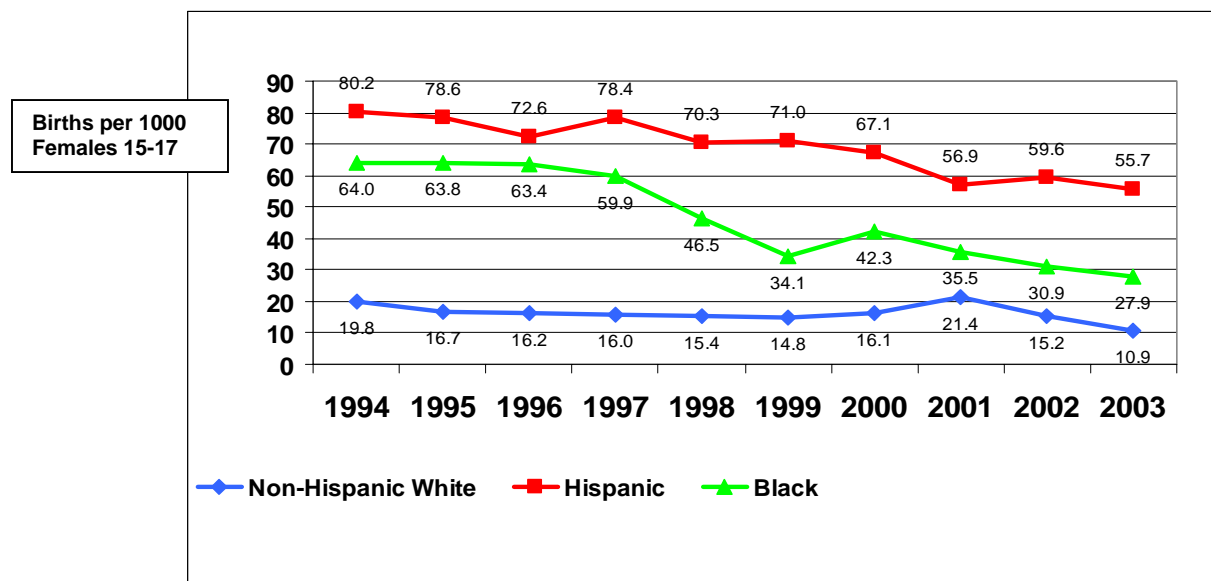
Figure 3 displays the school-age birth rates for both Bexar County and the U.S. since 1994, and for Texas from 2000 to 2003. Bexar County's rates during this period of time have been remarkably higher than those of the U.S. as a whole, and consistently higher than those of Texas. It is important to note that, while national teen birth rates have been falling since their peak in 1991, Bexar County rates peaked later—in 1994. This is the year that national rates of birth to school-age Hispanic females hit their highest point. Since 1994, rates of birth to U.S. school-age Hispanic females have been declining, but at a rate slower than the national rate as a whole. Bexar County's rate of decline in school-age birth rates from 1994 to 2003 was 31%--substantially lower than the 40% decline observed in the U.S. as a whole.



**FIGURE 3. Birth Rates for Females 15-17, 1992-2003: Bexar, Texas, U.S.**

### Bexar County School-Age Birth Rates by Race/Ethnicity.

Figure 4 demonstrates how school age birth rates differ among the largest racial and ethnic groups in Bexar County, as well as their progress over the last 10 years. Birth rates for females age 15 to 17 are dramatically higher for Hispanics and Blacks than they are for Non-Hispanic whites (“Anglos”). Hispanic girls, in particular, have high rates of birth, and their rates have fallen less rapidly than those of African-American girls.



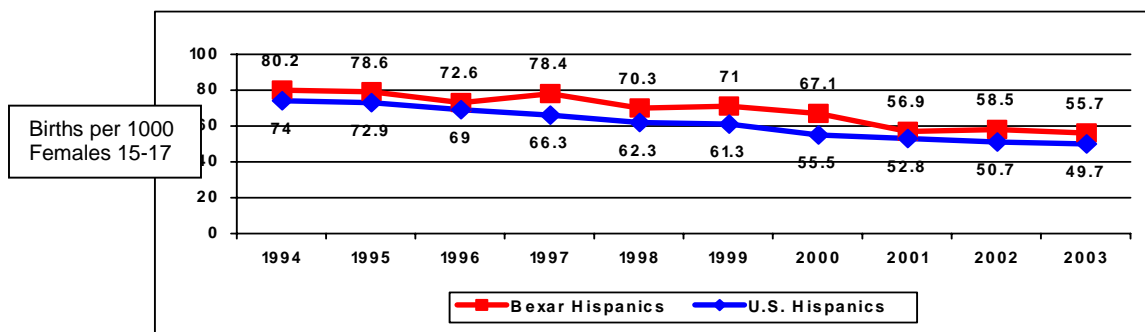
**FIGURE 4. Bexar County Birth Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 1994 to 2003.**

In spite of some variability, each of the three racial-ethnic groups has demonstrated a downward trend in the last 10 years. Blacks experienced the most dramatic decrease of school age birth rates (56%), while Non-Hispanic whites had a 45% drop. Hispanics experienced a smaller percent decrease: 31%.

It should be noted that marked variation over time of birth rates among the various race/ethnicity groups can be due to the size of the population at risk. Birth rates among smaller populations are often “unstable”—that is, they can vary markedly from year to year, based on small numbers of births.

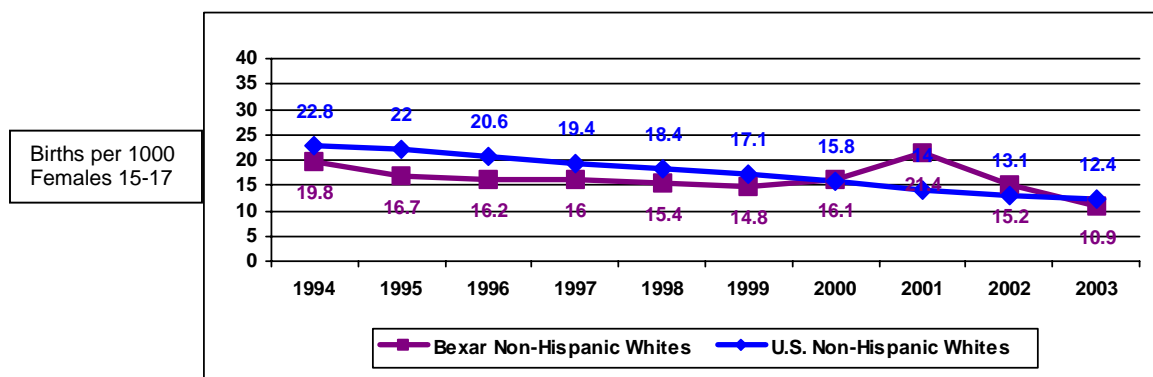
### School-Age Birth Rates by Race/Ethnicity: Bexar County vs. the U.S. over Time.

Figures 5, 6, and 7 compare school-age birth rates among the various racial and ethnic groups in Bexar County with those observed nationwide over the last 10 years. Data from these comparisons come from two sources. The Texas Department of State Health Services, Bureau of Vital Statistics provides the data for Bexar County, and the National Center for Health Statistics provides the data for the nation as a whole<sup>2-4</sup>. Definitions for Hispanic and Black may differ slightly between the two agencies, so these comparisons should be considered approximate and not definitive.



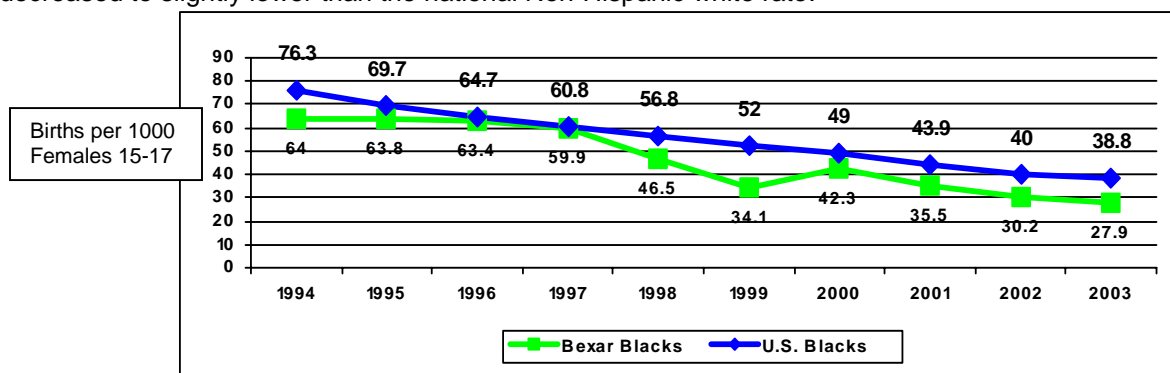
**FIGURE 5. School-Age Birth Rates for Bexar and U.S. Hispanic Females, 1994-2003**

Figure 5 demonstrates that Hispanics in Bexar County have higher rates of birth to females age 15 to 17 than do U.S. Hispanics generally. This may be due in part to the high percentage of Bexar County Hispanics who are of Mexican heritage. Of all subgroups of U.S. Hispanics, those of Mexican heritage have the highest rates of school-age childbearing<sup>2</sup>. Like the national Hispanic rates, rates of childbearing among Bexar County Hispanic teens are gradually falling since their peak in 1994. Despite an increase in 2002, Bexar County rates decreased to 55.7 per thousand in 2003.



**FIGURE 6. School-Age Birth Rates for Bexar and U.S. Non-Hispanic White Females, 1994-2003.**

Figure 6 shows that birth rates for Bexar County Non-Hispanic white females age 15 to 17 have been relatively low—consistently far lower than among Hispanics or Blacks. Until the year 2000, school-age birth rates among Bexar County Non-Hispanic whites were slightly lower than national rates for Non-Hispanic whites. In 2000, the rate of births among Bexar County Non-Hispanic white females 15 to 17 increased slightly to 16.1 per thousand, surpassing the national rate. In 2001, the Bexar County rate increased again before decreasing in 2002 to 15.2 per thousand. In 2003, the Bexar County rate decreased to slightly lower than the national Non-Hispanic white rate.



**FIGURE 7. School-Age Birth Rates for Bexar and U.S. Black Females, 1994-2003.**

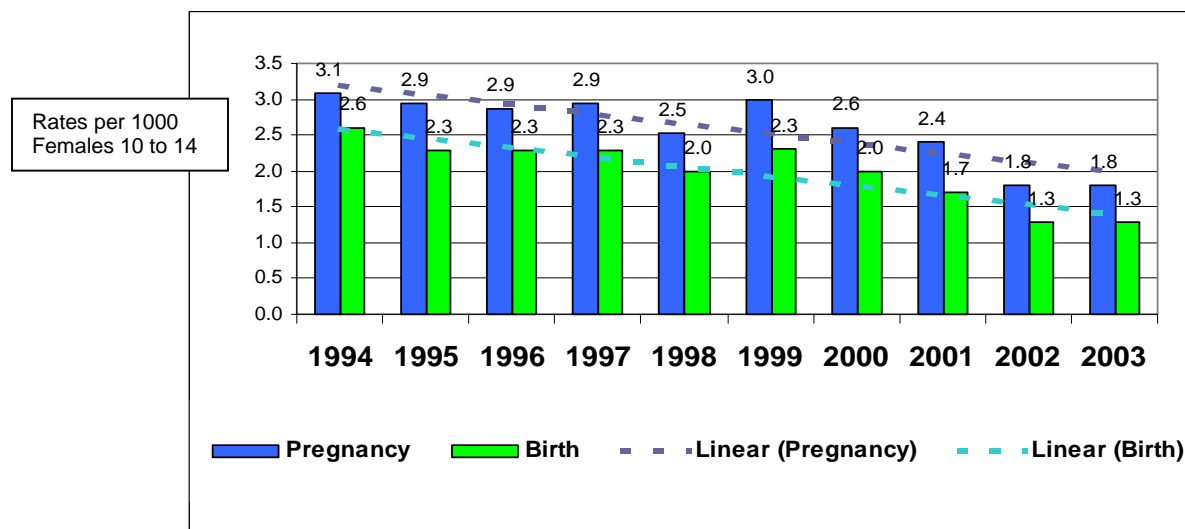
Figure 7 compares the school-age birth rates over time for Bexar County Blacks, versus those for blacks in the nation as a whole. In general, Bexar County Black females age 15 to 17 have had lower birth rates than the national Black school-age population. Rates of birth to Bexar County Blacks dropped dramatically between 1997 and 1999, with a slight rise in the rate noted in 2000. The Bexar County rate then began to drop again in 2001, 2002 and 2003 to a rate of 27.9 per thousand. Rate changes and variations noted in smaller populations—such as Bexar County's Black school-age population—should be interpreted cautiously because small variations in the number of births may have relatively large effects on calculated rates.

### Bexar County Pregnancy and Birth Rates for Females 10-14: Trends over Time

While rates of childbearing among females under 15 are far lower than among those 15 to 17, these births are especially likely to represent high-risk situations, from both medical and social standpoints. The younger the teen mother, the higher is the chance that the father of her baby is substantially older than she<sup>5</sup>. Of particular concern is that a high percentage of girls who become mothers before age 15 have experienced childhood sexual abuse<sup>6</sup>.

Rates of pregnancy and birth to females under age 15 are reported using the 10-14 age grouping used by the National Center for Health Statistics. Births among girls age 10 to 11 are rare, and few births occur to 12-year-olds. Nevertheless, the 10-14 age grouping is used to compare rates with those calculated for the nation as a whole.

Figure 8 demonstrates the remarkable progress concerning pregnancy and births among young women under age 15. From 1994 to 2003, rates of pregnancy and birth to Bexar County females age 10 to 14 fell dramatically. Pregnancy rates fell 42%, from 3.1 per thousand in 1994 to 1.8 per thousand in 2003. Rates of birth dropped 50%, from 2.6 per thousand in 1994 to 1.3 per thousand in 2003.

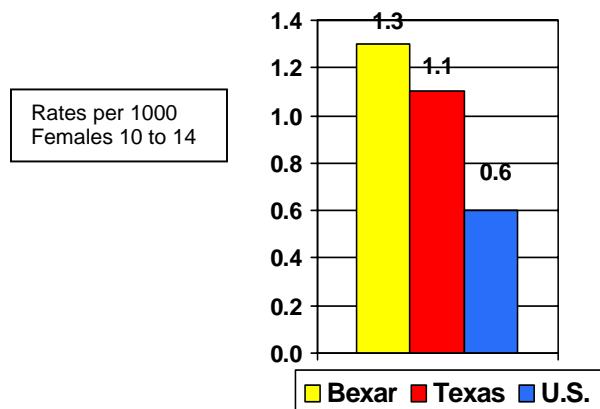


**FIGURE 8. Pregnancy and Birth Rates (per 1000 females age 10 to 14), Bexar County 1994-2003**



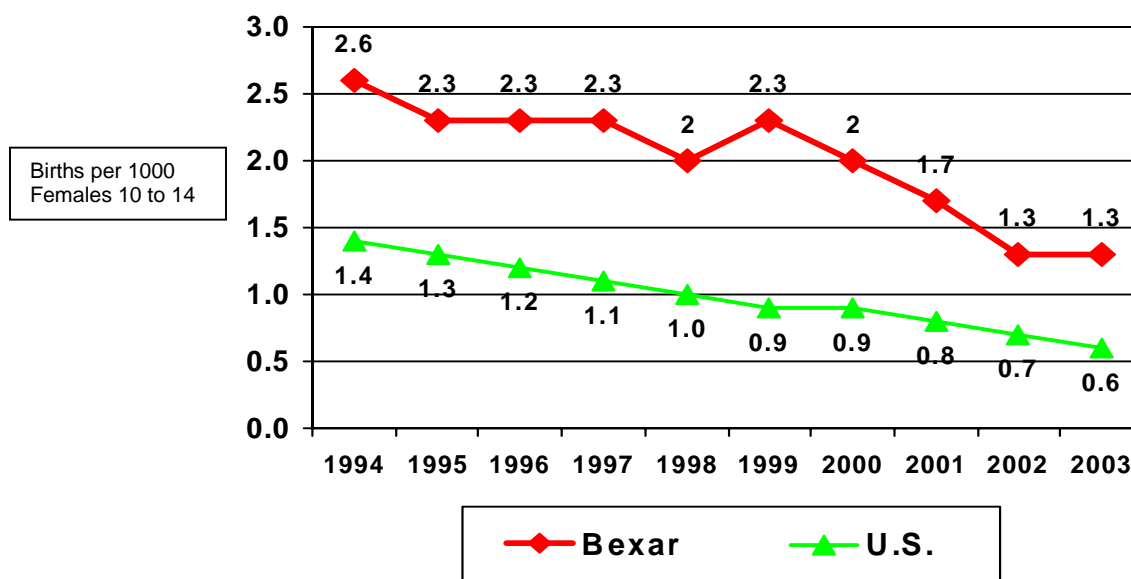
## Comparison of Bexar to Texas and U.S. in Birth Rates among Females under 15

Although both pregnancy and birth rates in this age group are declining in Bexar County, the rates are still dramatically higher than the country as a whole. As depicted in Figure 9, in 2003, the birth rate of 1.3 per thousand among 10 to 14-year old Bexar County females was just over twice the national rate of 0.6 per thousand. The Texas rate in 2003 was 1.1 per thousand—83% higher than the national rate. Bexar's rate of births to females 10-14 was about 18 percent higher than that of Texas.



**FIGURE 9. Comparison of Bexar, Texas, and U.S. Birth Rates to Females 10-14 for 2003**

Figure 10 shows both Bexar County and U.S. rates of birth to females under age 15 since 1994. Bexar County's birth rate for females age 10 to 14 peaked in 1994, and has declined dramatically since then. Since 1994, Bexar County's rate of births to females age 10 to 14 has fallen 50%. The U.S. rate of births in this age group has fallen 57% since 1994. However, while progress has been made in this age group, Bexar's rates remain 117% higher than those of the U.S.

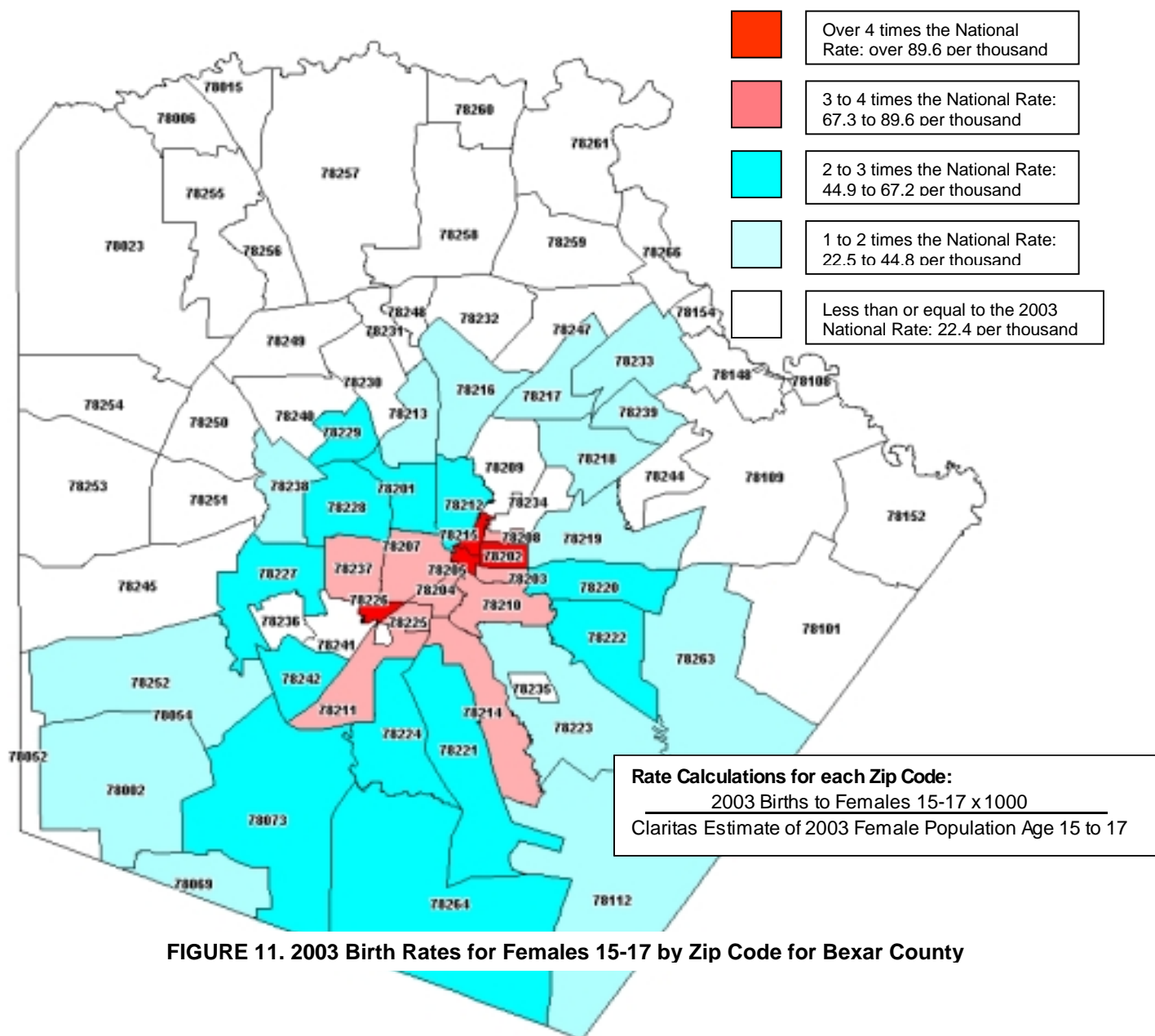


**FIGURE 10. Bexar County, U.S. Rates of Births to Ages 10-14, 1994-2003.**

## School-Age Birth Rates by Zip Code

Since 2002, Claritas population estimates by zip code have provided the information to include a zip code map of school-age birth rates for Bexar County. It is important to keep in mind that smaller populations are likely to have “unstable” rates, so that a difference of a few births can make a large difference in the rates calculated.

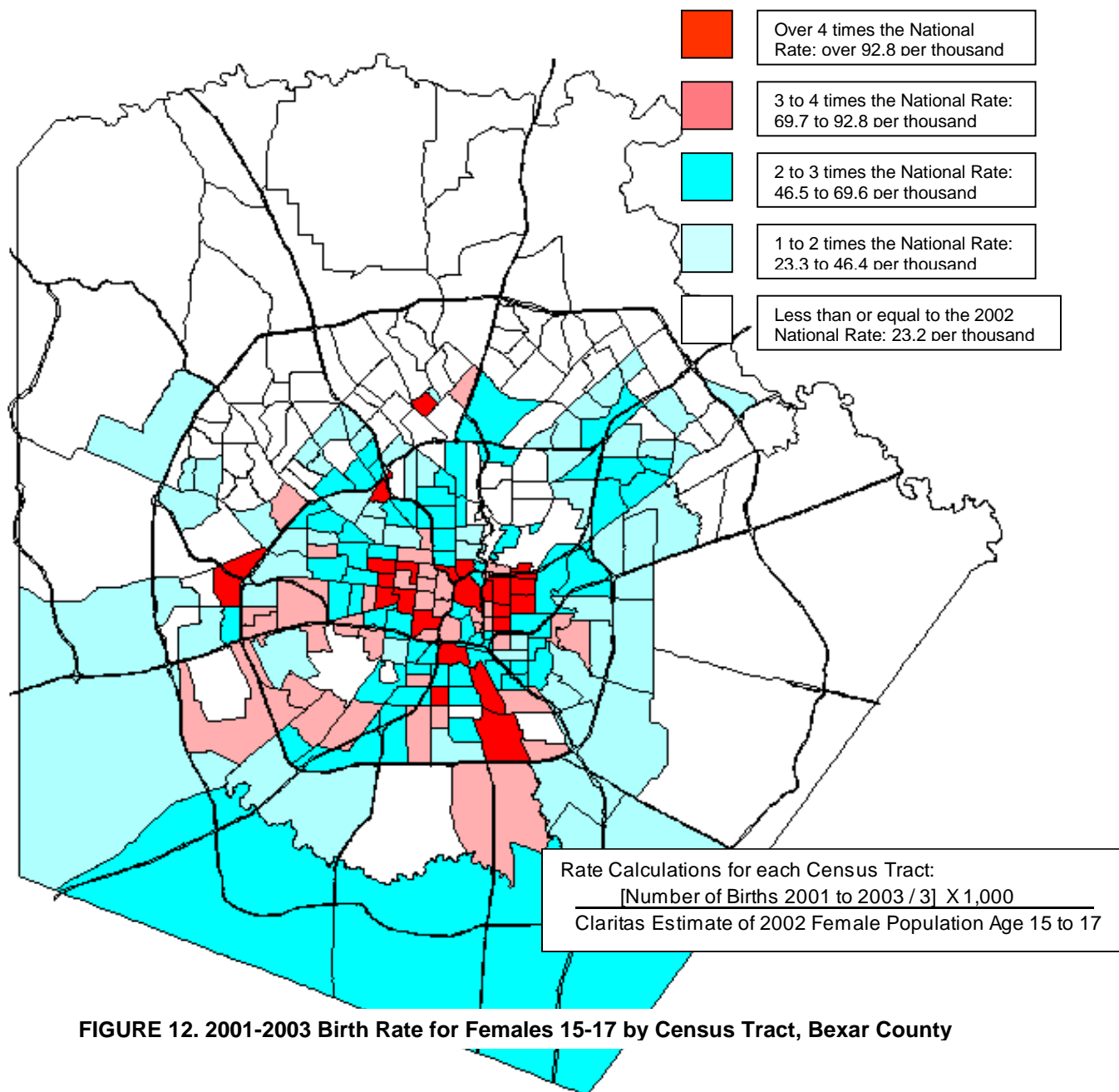
As shown in Figure 11, school-age birth rates in 2003 were highest in inner-city zip codes. Zip codes 78215, 78202, 78205, and 78226 each have calculated rates over 4 times the 2003 national rate of 22.4 births per thousand. Rates in some west, southwest, and east zip codes were calculated to have rates 3 to 4 times the national rate. These zip codes include 78203, 78204, 78207, 78208, 78210, 78211, 78214, 78225, and 78237. Many other Bexar zip codes were calculated to have rates higher than the national rate.



**FIGURE 11. 2003 Birth Rates for Females 15-17 by Zip Code for Bexar County**

## School-Age Birth Rates by Census Tract

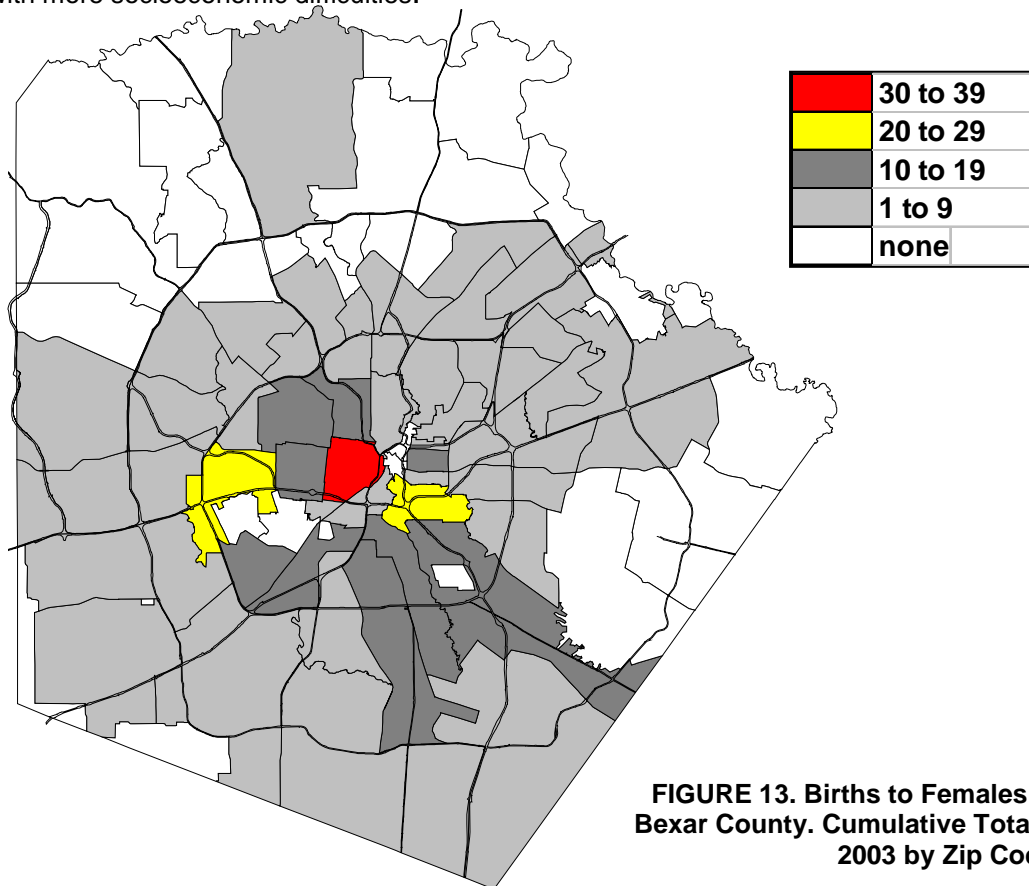
Census tracts are smaller than zip codes, and analysis of census tract rates can highlight smaller areas of high (or low) risk for adolescent childbearing. Figure 12 depicts the average birth rates for 2001-2003 for females age 15 to 17 by census tract, with color-coding to reflect how each tract's rates compare to the national rate (which for the "central" year 2002 was 23.2 per thousand). Figure 12 makes clear that the risk of adolescent childbearing is unevenly distributed across the county; census tracts with the highest rates continue to be close to the inner city. For the most part, tracts with lower than average socioeconomic status, and often those with high percentages of minority residents, tend to have higher rates.



**FIGURE 12. 2001-2003 Birth Rate for Females 15-17 by Census Tract, Bexar County**

### Births to females under age 15 by Zip Code and by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 13 displays numbers of births to mothers under age 15 by zip code. Because of the low numbers of births each year, this map includes births in a 4-year period (2000-2003). Rates are not calculated because of the low overall numbers. Once again, census tracts with high numbers tend to be in areas with more socioeconomic difficulties.



**FIGURE 13. Births to Females under age 15 for Bexar County. Cumulative Total for Years 2000 to 2003 by Zip Code**

Table 1 displays the data on number of births to mothers under age 15 by race/ethnicity for the county as a whole for the last 10 years. The total number of births to mothers under age 15 has fallen each year since 1999. Since 1994, the majority (83%) of births to mothers under age 15 have been to Hispanic girls.

YEAR	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1994-2003
Hispanic	110	101	103	96	93	106	84	76	63	61	893
Non-Hispanic White	10	5	5	7	5	3	6	8	2	3	54
Black	15	16	17	12	6	11	6	5	8	6	102
Other	2	0	0	4	7	3	4	1	0	1	22
<b>TOTAL BIRTHS</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1,071</b>

**Table 1. Births to Mothers under age 15 by Year by Race/Ethnicity, 1994-2003**

## Births by School District

Data on births and birth rates by school district refer to the population and the births that occur within each school district's catchment area. The births include those to mothers enrolled in public schools, as well as to those mothers who are not in school or who are in other school programs. Likewise, the population used for rate calculations includes both students and those who are not public school students.

Table 2 displays both the number of school-age births and the school-age birth rates by school district for 2003. The school district with the highest number of school age births is San Antonio Independent School District, with 478 births to females under age 18 in 2003. The next highest number of school-age births is in Northside Independent School District, with 184. It should be noted that the total for Bexar County shown at the bottom of Table 2 does not represent simply the sum of the births in each school district, but also includes births for which the school district is unknown or unspecified.

Larger school districts can be expected to have higher numbers of school-age births because of their size, so calculations of the rate are essential to understanding different risk levels in different school districts. The rate of births to females 15 to 17 by school district for 2003 is displayed in the final column of Table 2. The district with the highest rate in 2003 was Edgewood Independent School District (ISD), with 83.1 births per 1000 females age 15 to 17. South San Antonio ISD has the second highest rate at 72.2 births per thousand, followed by Harlandale ISD (70.9 per thousand), San Antonio ISD (63.4 per thousand) and Southside ISD (56.9 per thousand).

DISTRICT	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	Total Births < age 18	Population Females 15-17	Births per 1000 Females 15-17
Alamo Heights	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	584	3.4
East Central	0	1	1	7	10	11	30	1,123	24.9
Edgewood	0	0	3	21	40	65	129	1,515	83.1
Fort Sam Houston	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	99	10.1
Harlandale	0	0	9	14	39	59	121	1,580	70.9
Judson	0	0	1	8	9	34	52	2,158	23.6
Lackland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0.0
North East	0	0	5	19	44	73	141	7,054	19.3
Northside	0	4	9	23	59	89	184	8,865	19.3
Randolph Field	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	93	0.0
San Antonio	1	6	24	83	150	214	478	7,052	63.4
Somerset	0	0	1	2	4	5	12	377	29.2
South San Antonio	0	0	0	18	21	41	80	1,108	72.2
Southside	0	0	0	4	5	22	31	545	56.9
Southwest	0	0	2	6	19	34	61	1,416	41.7
Bexar County Total*							1,413	33,202	40.4

\* Includes unknown and unspecified births in addition to those categorized by school district

**Table 2. School-Age Births by Age of Mother and  
Birth Rates to Females 15 to 17 by School District, Bexar County 2003**

Table 3 displays the numbers of births in each Bexar County school district for the years 1994 to 2003. These births include all those to mothers under age 18, including those under age 15. It should be noted that the total for Bexar County shown at the bottom of Table 3 does not represent just the sum of the births in each school district; the total includes unknown and unspecified births in addition to those categorized by school district.

School District	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Alamo Heights	12	8	6	3	7	4	10	12	9	2
East Central	24	28	32	34	37	38	31	28	35	30
Edgewood	195	176	140	152	151	150	149	125	116	129
Ft. Sam Houston	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Harlandale	152	133	135	151	120	134	114	110	114	121
Judson	56	62	56	64	40	49	59	49	60	52
Lackland AFB	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Northeast	149	150	175	168	146	159	176	155	153	141
Northside	254	239	246	288	257	204	242	280	242	184
Randolph Field	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
San Antonio	673	695	659	692	568	587	595	569	559	478
Somerset	2	4	6	12	12	12	8	15	18	12
South San Antonio	94	103	94	76	98	93	80	78	81	80
Southside	11	24	22	16	26	27	16	36	38	31
Southwest	66	78	71	72	77	77	82	81	65	61
Bexar County Total*	1746	1737	1685	1784	1549	1535	1593	1573	1506	1413

\* Includes unknown and unspecified births in addition to those categorized by school district.

**Table 3. Births to Mothers Under 18 by School District, Bexar County 1994-2003**

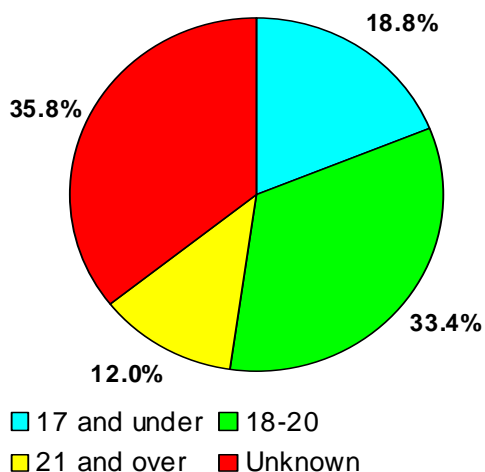
### Age of Fathers of Babies Born to School-Age Mothers

Many of the fathers of babies born to school-age mothers are not teens themselves. Some fathers of babies born to school-age mothers are adults (i.e., over age 18), and some are in their 20's, or even older. Table 4 displays school age births by age of father for each school district.

SCHOOL DISTRICT	Age of Father								
	14	15	16	17	18	19-20	21-24	25 +	Unknown
Alamo Heights	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Boerne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Comal	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
East Central	-	1	2	1	3	8	4	3	8
Edgewood	-	3	14	18	17	18	16	2	41
Fort Sam Houston	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harlandale	3	1	8	16	16	24	19	2	32
Judson	-	1	4	6	6	6	8	1	20
Lackland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medina Valley	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
North East	1	1	6	15	19	30	18	5	46
Northside	-	4	16	22	29	29	22	6	56
Randolph Field	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Antonio	1	10	30	61	58	88	54	10	166
Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
Somerset	-	-	2	3	2	1	1	2	1
South San Antonio	-	1	4	11	6	15	10	4	29
Southside	1	1	2	2	3	6	3	2	11
Southwest	-	2	6	6	8	8	9	-	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>462</b>

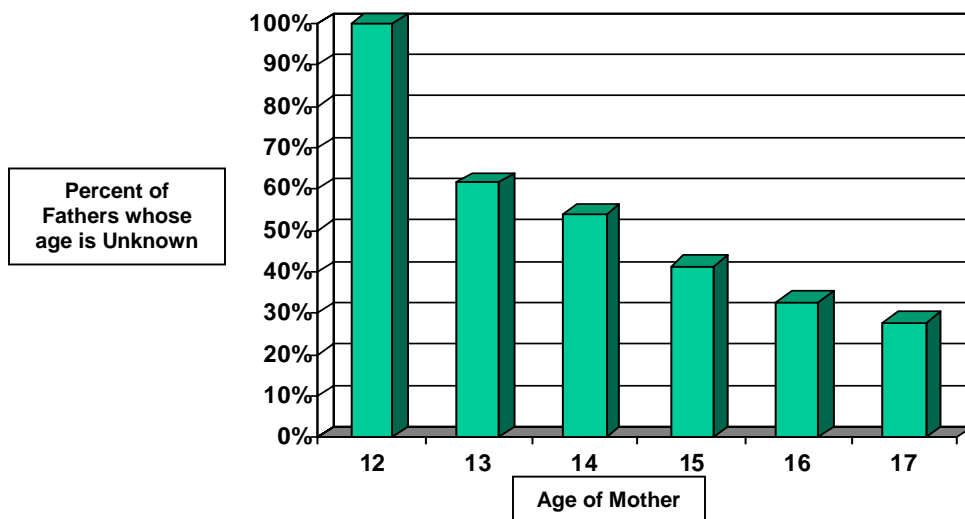
Table 4. 2003 School-Age Births (Mothers under 18) by Age of Father & School District

Figure 14 shows percentage of fathers by age group for the county as a whole for 2003. For 35.8% of school-age births, the age of the father is not known. 45.4 percent of these fathers are adults (over age 18), and 12% are 21 or older.



**FIGURE 14. Age of Fathers of Babies born to Females under age 18, Bexar County 2003**

Figure 15 Indicates that, for 2003, as in previous years, younger adolescent mothers were less likely than their older counterparts to provide the age of the father of the baby on the birth certificate.



**FIGURE 15. Fathers of Babies born to Mothers under age 18. Percent whose Age is Unknown, Bexar County 2003**



## Subsequent Births

Table 5 demonstrates information on subsequent births (i.e., second-, third-, or higher order births) to school-age mothers. Having a second (or more) child as an adolescent is particularly likely to affect a young woman's chances of completing high school<sup>1</sup>. Approximately 13% of school-age births in Bexar County in 2003 were second, third or fourth births; this represents a decrease of 2% from 2002. Sixty-six percent (66%) of these subsequent births occurred in 17 year olds. The next highest age group was 16 year olds, with 27% of subsequent births.

DISTRICT	Second Birth					Third & Fourth Birth			Total
	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	
Alamo Heights	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Boerne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Comal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Central	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Edgewood	0	0	1	2	6	0	0	5	14
Fort Sam Houston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harlandale	0	0	0	2	12	0	0	0	14
Judson	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6
Lackland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medina Valley	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
North East	0	0	1	7	9	0	0	0	17
Northside	0	0	1	6	19	0	0	0	26
Randolph Field	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Antonio	1	1	6	20	36	1	1	6	71
Schertz-Cibolo- Universal City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South San Antonio	0	0	0	5	7	1	0	0	13
Southside	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	4
Southwest	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	6

Table 5. 2003 Subsequent Births to Mother under age 18 by School District and Maternal Age

## Percent of School-Age Mothers who are Married

Table 6 displays information on the percent of Bexar County adolescents under age 18 giving birth who are married at the time of the birth, by racial-ethnic group. The majority of school-age mothers in each group are single. Overall, only 13% are married. Non-Hispanic white mothers were more likely to be married (18%) than their Hispanic (13%) counterparts. Black mothers are less likely to be married (2%) at the time their baby is born.

	Number of Births	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17
<b>Hispanic</b>	1217	1	11	50	186	382	587
Hispanic Married	161	0	1	3	15	51	91
Hispanic Not Married	1056	1	10	47	171	331	496
<b>Percent Married Hispanic</b>	13%	0%	9%	6%	8%	13%	16%
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	100	0	1	2	12	24	61
NHW Married	18	0	0	0	1	6	11
NHW Not Married	82	0	1	2	11	18	50
<b>Percent Married NHW</b>	18%		0%	0%	8%	25%	18%
<b>Black</b>	87	0	1	5	18	25	38
Black Married	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
Black Not Married	85	0	1	5	17	25	37
<b>Percent Married Black</b>	2%		0%	0%	6%	0%	3%
<b>Other</b>	9	0	0	1	0	4	4
Other Married	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Other Not Married	7	0	0	1	0	2	4
<b>Percent Married Other</b>	22%			0%		50%	0%
<b>All</b>	1413	1	13	58	216	435	690
<b>Overall Married</b>	183	0	1	3	17	59	103
<b>Overall Not Married</b>	1230	1	12	55	199	376	587
<b>Overall Percent Married</b>	13%	0%	8%	5%	8%	14%	15%

**Table 6. Percent of School-Age Mothers who are Married by Race/Ethnicity, Bexar County 2003**

Table 7 demonstrates a decline in the percentage of Bexar County Hispanic school-age mothers who are married since 2000. For Non-Hispanic whites, the percentage married declined sharply in 2002 and then increased to 18%. Black school-age mothers saw a slight decrease from 2002. The percentage of Hispanic school-age mothers who are married declined sharply in 2003 to 13%. Because the majority of school-age mothers are Hispanic, the overall percentage of mothers who are married resembles that among Hispanics. Overall, the percentage of Bexar County school-age mothers who are married has declined since 2000.

<b>Percent Married</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	19%	19%	17%	13%
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	16%	16%	10%	18%
<b>Black</b>	3%	4%	4%	2%
<b>Overall School Age (&lt; 18)</b>	19%	17%	17%	13%

**Table 7: Percent of School Age Mothers who are Married, Bexar County 2000 - 2003**

## Induced Abortion by Age and by Race/Ethnicity

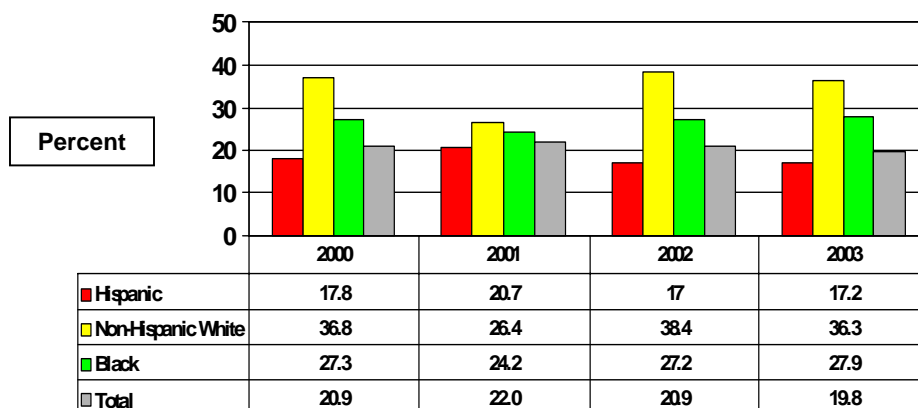
Table 8 provides data on induced abortions in Bexar County by age for the years 1994 through 2003. Most abortions in Bexar County are reported in adult women and not in school-age females. Only 4.8% of abortions recorded in 2003 occurred among females under 18 years of age, and this represents a decrease from previous years.

There was a marked increase in the number of abortions performed in 1998 for women of unknown age, and this was likely a result of changes in reporting. (In 1999, reports of abortions performed on women whose age was unknown declined, with increased numbers in each age category. This is also likely due to reporting changes.) From 1999 to 2003, there was a 27% decrease in abortions for females under age 15. For females age 15 – 17, there was a decrease in abortions by 35%.

AGE GROUP	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
< 15	23	31	30	31	26	37	28	41	25	27
15 - 17	470	496	429	443	359	502	392	394	381	324
18 - 19	811	836	823	897	714	1,002	912	909	801	706
20 - 24	2,426	2,308	2,216	2,284	2,005	2,895	3,088	3,027	2,884	2,745
25 - 29	1,285	1,460	1,522	1,559	1,419	1,842	1,744	1,772	1,658	1,756
30 - 34	836	813	775	773	715	967	948	993	1,053	941
35 - 39	399	423	498	493	459	568	532	572	534	502
40 +	155	140	148	152	152	191	212	208	210	234
Age Unknown	2	1	8	18	2,008	52	49	53	31	11
<b>TOTAL ALL AGES</b>	<b>6,407</b>	<b>6,508</b>	<b>6,449</b>	<b>6,650</b>	<b>7,857</b>	<b>8,056</b>	<b>7,905</b>	<b>7,969</b>	<b>7,577</b>	<b>7,246</b>
Total Age <18	493	527	459	474	385	539	420	435	406	351
Percent < 18	7.7%	8.1%	7.1%	7.1%	4.9%	6.7%	5.3%	5.5%	5.4%	4.8%

**Table 8. Induced Termination of Pregnancy 1994-2003, Bexar County, by Age**

Figure 16 displays the percentages of school-age pregnancies that end in abortion, by racial-ethnic group for 2000 through 2003. Of the racial-ethnic groups, Non-Hispanic white adolescents were the most likely to end a pregnancy with an induced abortion. Hispanic females under age 18 were less likely to obtain an abortion if pregnant than were Non-Hispanic white females. However, because of the high percentage of pregnancies that occur among Hispanic teens, the highest number of induced abortions occurred in this group. Black females under age 18 were somewhat less likely than Non-Hispanic white females, to obtain an abortion if pregnant.



**FIGURE 16. Percent of School-Age Pregnancies Ending in Abortion by Race/Ethnicity, Bexar County 2000-2003**

## Sexually Transmitted Diseases

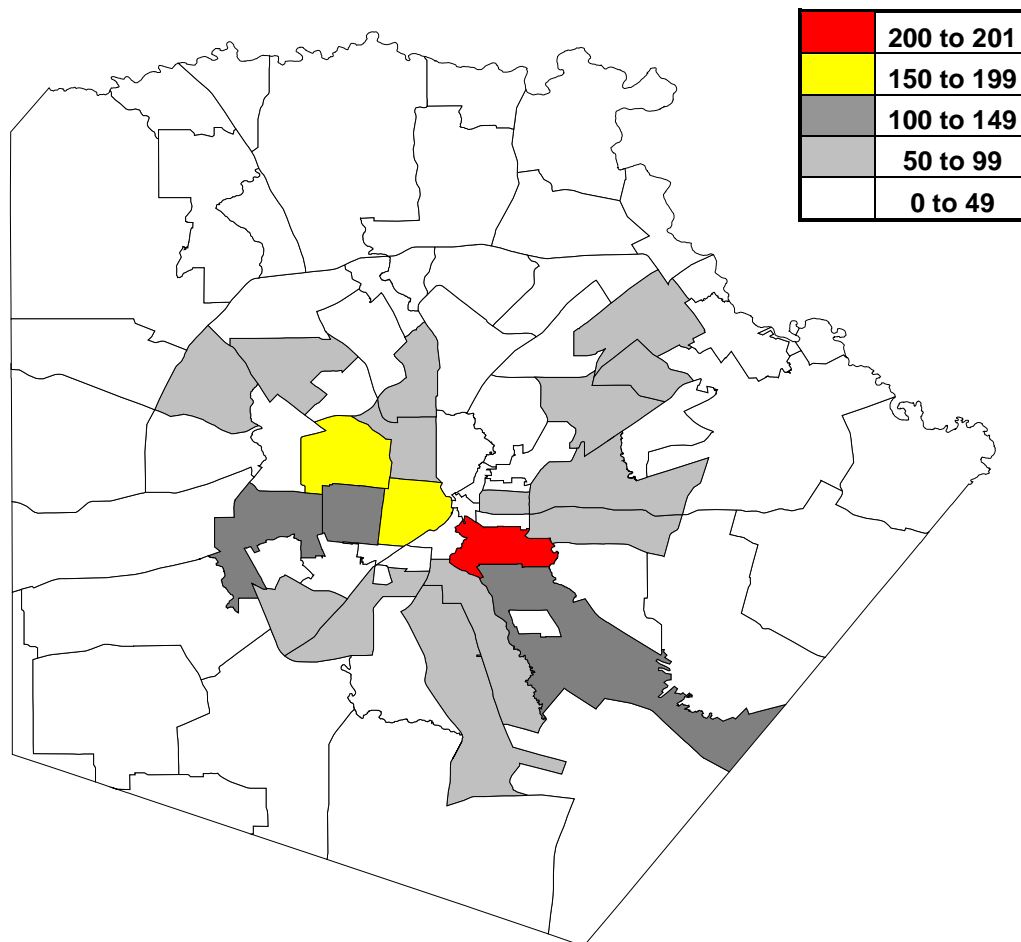
Teen pregnancy is related to sexual activity, and thus to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS. While there is extensive birth-certificate data on births, there is limited data on STDs. Reporting is required for only some STDs, and reporting is generally incomplete.

Table 9 displays available data concerning the age of reported cases of Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, HIV and AIDS for 2003, with over 3,300 cases reported. Reports are more commonly received for older teens (ages 18 and 19), but STD reports are received for youth as young as 12. Chlamydia, by far, continues to be the most commonly reported of the STDs.

Age	Syphilis	Gonorrhea	Chlamydia	AIDS	HIV	Total Reported STDs
10	-	-	1	-	-	1
11	-	-	1	-	-	1
12	-	-	5	-	-	5
13	-	8	31	-	-	39
14	-	26	110	-	-	136
15	1	51	255	-	-	307
16	2	84	425	1	-	512
17	-	121	533	-	-	654
18	2	171	618	-	3	794
19	8	186	658	-	2	854
<b>Total Ages 10-19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>2,637</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3,303</b>

**Table 9. Reported Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Ages 10-19, Bexar County, 2003**

Figure 17 displays Bexar County 2003 data on Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and HIV/AIDS in youth age 10-19 by zip code. These findings must be interpreted with caution. They represent only reportable bacterial infections plus HIV/AIDS, and do not include common STDs such as genital herpes, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) or genital warts, or Trichomoniasis. In addition, reporting is far from complete for the diseases that are reportable. Many reports are received from the Juvenile Detention facility because a screening program exists for that population. STDs among youth in more affluent areas of the county are probably less likely to be reported in this system.



**FIGURE 17. STDs among Bexar County Youth age 10-19 by Zip Code, 2003**

## COMMENT

Bexar County continues to make progress in its efforts to lower teen pregnancy rates, but there is still much work to be done. Although rates of pregnancy and childbearing among school-age females have fallen substantially since their peak in 1994, rates are far higher than the nation as a whole.

Teen pregnancy is a complex behavioral and social phenomenon, related to both positive and negative factors in young people's lives. The evidence is clear that young people will make better decisions for themselves when they feel connected to family and school; when they have lots of caring adults involved in their lives; and when they perceive healthy social "norms"<sup>7,8</sup>. Proven programs are available and effective, and include the Teen Outreach Program, and others<sup>9</sup>.

Communities must do a variety of things to build on the progress of recent years and reduce teen pregnancy rates. Promotion of abstinence is important, but it is essential to do so in a way that is effective, and in a way that avoids discouraging use of condoms and contraception among those that are sexually active. Another important component is knowledge about and access to condoms and contraception. The literature is reassuring in that multiple research studies consistently find that knowledge of and access to contraception and condoms do NOT increase sexual activity by any measure<sup>9</sup>.

Surveys demonstrate that parents endorse an "abstinence-plus" approach and that youth do not get a "mixed message" from discussing both abstinence and contraception<sup>10</sup>. Youth who have been sexually active need screening for STDs, and medical recommendations are that adolescents should have access to confidential care<sup>11-15</sup>.

Importantly, reducing teen pregnancy requires more than attention to abstinence and contraception. Parents must be empowered and encouraged to communicate effectively with their children. All adults in the community can contribute to the futures of youth in their lives by devoting time and energy to building developmental "assets" for youth<sup>16</sup>. Young people need to be valued and engaged in improving their community<sup>17</sup>.

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